

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 7, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1496

**Introduced by Assembly Member Thurmond
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Williams)**

February 27, 2015

An act to add Section 39731 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to greenhouse gases.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1496, as amended, Thurmond. Methane emissions.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 establishes the State Air Resources Board as the state agency responsible for monitoring and regulating sources emitting greenhouse gases. Existing law requires the state board to complete a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, as defined, in the state.

This bill would require the state board to take specified actions and conduct specified analyses with respect to methane emissions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Methane is a gas that is emitted from both natural and human
4 sources. Its concentration in the global atmosphere has more than
5 doubled since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Methane
6 is a short-lived climate pollutant with a lifetime of only about 12
7 years when released into the atmosphere. It is an extremely potent
8 greenhouse gas, with 20 to 30 times the warming power of carbon
9 dioxide over a 100-year period and more than 80 times over a
10 20-year period.

11 (b) The life-cycle greenhouse gas emission from the drilling,
12 production, and transportation of natural gas can result in methane
13 leaks, and there is a need for much better information on the
14 life-cycle methane emissions resulting from California's imports
15 of natural gas.

16 (c) Recent satellite studies have shown methane hot spots in the
17 San Joaquin Valley and higher levels of emissions than were
18 previously estimated from the principal sources of methane in
19 California. There is an urgent need to improve the monitoring and
20 measurement of methane emissions from the major sources in
21 California.

22 SEC. 2. Section 39731 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
23 to read:

24 39731. The state board shall do all of the following:

25 (a) Undertake, in consultation with districts that monitor
26 methane, monitoring and measurements of high-emission methane
27 hot spots in the state using the best available and cost-effective
28 scientific and technical methods.

29 (b) Consult with federal and state agencies, independent
30 scientific experts, and any other appropriate entities to gather or
31 acquire the necessary information for the purpose of carrying out
32 a life-cycle greenhouse gas emission analysis of natural gas
33 produced and imported into the state using the best available and
34 cost-effective scientific and technical methods.

35 (c) Update relevant policies and programs to incorporate the
36 information gathered and acquired pursuant to subdivisions (a)
37 and (b).

1 (d) (1) Review, in consultation with independent scientific
2 experts, the most recent available scientific data and reports on
3 the atmospheric reactivity of methane as a precursor to the
4 formation of photochemical oxidants and evaluate whether methane
5 ~~should be reclassified as a contributor to the formation of air~~
6 ~~pollution~~ oxidants.

7 (2) *Upon completion of the review conducted pursuant to*
8 *paragraph (1), the state board may evaluate whether methane*
9 *should be reclassified as a contributor to the formation of air*
10 *pollution.*